FOL 14 VIETS

Department of State

TELEGRAM

(1314)

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 08002 091306Z

EXCISE

49
ACTION EA I9

INFO GPM 03,SC 01,RSC 01,USIA 12,H 02,NSC 10,L 03,INR 07,P 04,CIA 04,
DOD 01,SP 02,SS 35,NSAE 00,SAH 03,SAL 01,AID 30,IO 2I,RSR 01,
/160 W

R 090900Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8434
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 1/26/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8002

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS: VINH LONG PROVINCE

REF: SAIGON 6811

1. OF THE 39 PERSONS WHO FILED FOR VINH LONG'S 3 SEATS, 26 REMAINED AT SECOND POSTING. CANDIDATES NGUYEN VAN SANH, PHAM VAN SEN, TRAN VAN NAM, TRUONG PHUOC NEN, AND TRAN NGOC THAN WITHDREW. LE THIEN CHI, NGUYEN KE NGHIEP, DAO KHANH THO, PHAM VAN HAI, HO NGOC HUU AND LAM PHI DIEU WERE DISQUALIFIED FOR IMCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS OR FAILURE TO MAKE THE REQUIRED DEPOSIT. POSSIBLY

DIEU, A PROMINENT MEMBER OF MOVEMENT FOR RENAISSANCE

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 08002 091306Z

OF THE SOUTH, DECIDED NOT TO RUN OUT OF DISCOURAGEMENT AT THE POOR SHOWING OF TRAN VAN HUONG IN VINH LONG. LAM VAN SAI WAS DENIED MILITARY LEAVE. VO THANH VAN WAS EXCLUDED BY THE LOCAL ELECTION COUNCIL ON GROUNDS HE HAD A MILTARY OBLIGATION BUT CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL REINSTATED HIM. TRAN VAN MINH WAS EXCLUDED BECAUSE OF ALLEGED CONNECTIONS WITH THE VIET CONG.

2. BASIC BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON ALL CANDIDATES WAS REPORTED REFTEL. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOLLOWS.

3. LEADING CANDIDATES:

A. BUI VAN NHAN, HOA HAO. ONE OF THREE CANDIDATES SUPPORTED BY HOA HAO PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE. COMMITTEE HAS CIRCULATED LETTER CALLING ON HOA HAO VOTERS TO SUPPORT NHAN ALONG WITH PHAM KIM THO AND BUI VAN BE. LETTER STATES THAT THEY WILL FOLLOW ORDERS OF COMMITTEE IF ELECTED AND THAT THEY WILL CONTRIBUTE ONE FOURTH OF THEIR SALARY TO COMMITTEE. LETTER STRESSES FAILURE TO GAIN REPRESENTATION IN LOWER HOUSE WILL BE HARMFUL

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 8002 C O N F I D E N T I A L
TO HOA HAO. NHAN IS FORMER CHIEF VAINH LONG REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT WORKERS. HE CLAIMS THAT SUPPORT OF HOA HAO AND RD WORKERS WILL PUT HIM INTO OFFICE. OTHER CANDIDATES HAVE OBJECTED TO HOA HAO COMMITTEE LETTER AND FACT THAT NHAN HAS BEEN CAMPAIGNING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AND THEY PLAN TO FILE COMPLAINT SHORTLY BEFORE ELECTION. NHAN CLAIMS HE HAS DONE NOTHING ILLEGAL. LIKE MOST CANDIDATES WITH SOME CHANCE, HE GOT OFF TO EARLY START. NHAN IS FORMER TEACHER AT VINH LONG TECHNICAL SCHOOL AND STUDIED LAW FOR THREE YEARS AT SAIGON UNIVER

SITY. HIS PLATFORM INCLUDES EXPANSION OF TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT AND PEACE, PEACE PLANK STATED IN GENERAL TERMS.

B. VO TAM ANH, DOCTOR, BUDDHIST, ARVN CAPTAIN,

CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 08002 091306Z

BORN IN HUE AND REPORTEDLY SUPPORTED BY REVOLUTIONARY DAI VIETS (HE DENIES THIS). STUDIED MEDICINE AT HANOI AND SAIGON UNIVERSITIES. LIVED IN CAN THO SINCE 1963.

B-1 ed

HE HAS ALSO STUDIED LAW FOR TWO YEARS. ANH'S PLATFORM INCLUDES ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL

PAGE 4 RUMJIR 8002 C O N F I D E N T I A L
REFORM, EXPANSION OF HEALTH FACILITIES, PEACE (BUT ONLY ON SPECIFIC CONDITIONS). SAID ALREADY TO HAVE SUPPORT IN PROVINCE CAPITAL AND SPENDING CONSIDERABLE MONEY.

C. DAO NGOC THO, ARVN COL., DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR LOGISTICS SAIGON. BORN IN CHO LACH DISTRICT VANH LONG BUT HAS BEEN ABSENT FOR SOME TIME. THO WANTED T O RUN IN GIA DINH WHERE HE REPORTEDLY HAS CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT BUT YIELDED TO ANOTHER ARVN OFICER AND CAME TO VINH LONG, REPORTEDLY WITH LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM BISHOP OF SAIGON. THO IS RECENTLY CONVERTED CATHOLIC AND IS EXPECTED TO GET SUPPORT OF CATHOLICS IN VINH LONG. THO STUDIED ENGINEERING AT SAIGON UNIVERSITY THEN ATTENDED THU DUC MILITARY SCHOOL. THO HAS BEEN IN ARMY FOR 16 YEARS.

B-1 ed

SPEAKS FAIR ENGLISH. SAID TO BE CAMPAIGNING ACTIVELY. PLATFORM INCLUDES ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT AND REVISION OF DRAFT LAWS TO AVOID DRAFTING THOSE WITH SKILLS NEEDED TO BUILD COUNTRY SUCH AS TEACHERS. THO TOUTS HIS EXPERIENCE IN ECONOMICS AND LOGISTICS. HE SAYS WHEN ELECTED HE WILL IMPLEMENT HIS PLATFORM THROUGH LOWER

PAGE 5 RUMJIR 8002 C O NF I D E N T I A L
HOUSE BUDGETARY POWERS.

4. CANDIDATES WTH SOME CHANCE:

A. PHAM KIM THO, HOA HAO (SEE ABOVE), CHAIRMAN OF VINH LONG PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, ELDERLY AND NOT SPECIALLY ACTIVE.

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 08002 091306Z

THO'S MAIN HOPE (AS WELL AS BE'S) IS SUPPPORT OF BINH MINH DISTRICT HOA HAO. (THERE ARE SEVEN HOA HAO CANDIDATES.) HOA HAO SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATE NGUYEN THAN LIEM IS NOT EXPECT TO GET MANY VOTES BUT FORMER BINH MINH HOA HAO COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PHAM VAM LOI MAY GET SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF HOA HAO VOTES. TWO HOA HAO BROTHERS, LE CONG MINH, PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHER, AND TRAN VAN SUM, ARVN MAJOR AND GVN PACIFICATION INSPECTOR, MAY ALSO GET PART OF HOA HAO VOTE.

B. BUI VAN HIEU, FORMER CHIEF CENSUS GRIEVANCE CENTER OF VINH LONG, BUDDHIST. ACCORDING TO CHAU THANH DISTRICT CHIEF, CHIEU NOT WELL EDUCATED BUT HAS MUCH POLITICAL EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING CONTACTS WITH COMMUNISTS AND CAN LAO PARTY.

C. LE QUANG KINH, FORMER CANTON CHIEF, CHAU THANH DISTRICT, FORMER ARVN OFFICER, CHAIRMAN VINH LONG VETERANS' ASSOCIATION, BUDDHIST. HAS ONLY OUTSIDE CHANCE.

D. TRAN VAN CHIEU, MEMBER LOCAL CVT LABOR UNION, CATHOLIC. CVT IS FAIRLY STRONGIN VINH LONG, BUT THERE IS SOME DOUBT WHETHER CVT CAN UNITE BEHIND ONE CANDIDATE. NGUYEN VAN MAU, CVT JOURNALIST FROM SAIGON, IS ALSO IN THE RACE IN VINH LONG.

PAGE 6 RUMJIR 8002 C O N F I D E N T I A L
C. LE VAN THIEU, CATHOLIC, MEMBER VINH LONG PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, FORMER TEACHER.

5. OTHER CANDIDATES INCLUDE:

LE DINH TU, FORMER ARVN MAJOR, NOW CIVIL SERVANT;
NGUYEN VAN SANG, CATHOLIC, FORMER SCHOOL TEACHER, AS CA DEPUTY HE HAS SOME CHANCE BEING RE-ELECTED;
LA VAN MAN, REPORTER, YOUTH SERVICE CHIEF OF CAN THO, FORMERLY YOUTH SERVICE CADRE VINH LONG;
HOANG LY [illegible], FORMER TEACHER.

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] CATHOLIC:

VO THANH VAN, SAID TO BE DISTRICT CHIEF IN HAU NGHIA:
NGUYEN VAN QUAN, MINISTRY TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS:
NGUYEN VAN MAU, REPORTER, BUDDHIST:

6. ALTHOUGH SOME CANDIDATES ARE INCLUDING PEACE PLANKS IN THEIR PLATFORMS, APPROACH ON THIS ISUE IS GENERALLY CAUTIOUS. HOWEVER POSSIBILITY OF LAST MINUTE OR COVERT DZU TYPE PROMISES CANNOT BE EXCLUDED. GENERAL FEELING IS THAT ALTHOUGH MORE LOCAL INTEREST IN THIS ELECTION, VOTE WILL BE LOWER BECAUSE PRESSURE TO GET OUT VOTE NOT AS GREAT AS IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. SOME OF CANDIDATES LABELLING BUI VAN NHAN AS GOVERNMENT AND SUGGESTING THAT ELECTION WILL NOT BE FAIR. LOCKE

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